

rect description to the stars in question, and also to the red star *a Tauri*, but he appends the Arabic word *الخوصي*, which he translates "rouge," or "rougeâtre." Dr. Rien, the Keeper of Oriental MSS. at the British Museum, and Dr. Redhouse inform me *there is no such Arabic word implying colour*. In fact, Professor Schjellerup translates the word as it ought to be, his Arabic MS. having an untranslatable word.

"Dr. Redhouse is here in error. Turn up only Freytagii Lexicon Arabico-Latinum, s.v. *خوص*, and you will find 'ornavit laminis aureis (coronam).' I think that a designation of a *Tauri* as a 'golden' star is more proper than Dr. Redhouse's 'chest complaint look' about the same star.

"I should be glad if you would kindly cause the above to be inserted in an early number of the *Monthly Notices*.

"Copenhagen :  
1885, Sept. 23."

*Note on the above.* By E. B. Knobel.

The remarks on page 419 of the June *Notices* quoted by Professor Schjellerup were not intended to be limited to MSS. of Al-Sūfi, but to apply to all the Oriental MSS., both Arabic and Persian, of Ptolemy, Al-Sūfi, and Ulugh Beigh, which I had examined. The object of the paper was *solely* to show that in these MSS. errors of transcriber and translator are so frequent and so rife that we are not yet in a position to assume that any differences we find in the star magnitudes of Al-Sūfi and Ulugh Beigh may not be due to such errors.

Professor Schjellerup takes exception to my remarks (p. 149 of the January *Notices*) on his translation of the Arabic word *الخوصي* as "rouge" or "rougeâtre."

The word *خوص*, which he gives as his authority from Freytag, is one which I had carefully considered and discussed with Dr. Redhouse when preparing the paper. I hardly think that his translation of it as "golden" can be at all sustained. The noun *خوص* means "the leaves or the fronds of the date palm," and the verb *خوص* (with reduplication of the second letter) means "put forth leaves (the tree)." In Lane's dictionary the sentence in Freytag, quoted by Professor Schjellerup, is thus given: "he ornamented (the crown) with plates of gold of the width of palm leaves." The use of the word *خوص* here refers to the *shape*, and not to any colour. I think it extremely unlikely that the solution of the difficulty can be found in the word *خوص* as the authorities I have consulted do not agree with Professor Schjellerup that it can be used in a sense implying colour.

The Horizontal and Vertical Diameters of the Sun as observed with the Greenwich Transit Circle.  
By W. G. Thackeray.

(Communicated by A. M. W. Downing.)

The following table is formed by taking from one of the sections of the *Greenwich Observations* the daily errors of the *Nautical Almanac* horizontal diameter of the Sun, as given by each of the regular observers for the years 1861-83, and ranging them under each observer's name. The tabular figures represent the mean annual error, with the number of observations on which the value depends, subscribed.

Tabular Errors of the Sun's Horizontal Diameter as computed in the "Nautical Almanac."

Year.	Dunkin.	Ellis.	J. Carpen sr.	Criswick.	Lynn.	Downing.	Thackeray.	Lewis.	Hollis.
1861.	...	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
	+ 0'036 <sub>11</sub>	+ 0'080 <sub>17</sub>	+ 0'091 <sub>7</sub>	- 0'013 <sub>16</sub>					
1862	...	+ 0'145 <sub>13</sub>	+ 0'176 <sub>11</sub>	+ 0'047 <sub>16</sub>					
1863	...	+ 0'123 <sub>23</sub>	+ 0'227 <sub>22</sub>	+ 0'007 <sub>20</sub>					
1864	...	+ 0'054 <sub>23</sub>	+ 0'174 <sub>19</sub>	+ 0'011 <sub>25</sub>					
1865	...	+ 0'093 <sub>22</sub>	+ 0'190 <sub>18</sub>	- 0'009 <sub>24</sub>					
1866	...	+ 0'113 <sub>20</sub>	+ 0'136 <sub>17</sub>	- 0'028 <sub>16</sub>					
1867	...	+ 0'114 <sub>17</sub>	+ 0'166 <sub>13</sub>	+ 0'056 <sub>11</sub>					
1868	...	+ 0'074 <sub>16</sub>	+ 0'208 <sub>10</sub>	+ 0'027 <sub>23</sub>					
1869	...	+ 0'100 <sub>18</sub>	+ 0'187 <sub>12</sub>	+ 0'031 <sub>15</sub>					
		+ 0'091 <sub>17</sub> +	0'194 <sub>20</sub>	+ 0'041 <sub>17</sub>	+ 0'100 <sub>14</sub>				

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